A Universe of Energy: Emerging Technologies to Expand Our Energy "ToolBox" for Planet Earth, Our Solar System, and Beyond

presented at

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AGENDA



- ➤ Recent Spacecraft Power Systems
- > Terrestrial Energy Recovery Applications
 - **Motivations**
 - ➤ New Emerging TE Materials
 - ➤ High Power Density TE Module Technology
- ➤ High Temperature Solar Photovoltaics
- > Final Thoughts



NASA Science Exploration Missions Need for Both Solar & Radioisotope Power Systems (RPS)

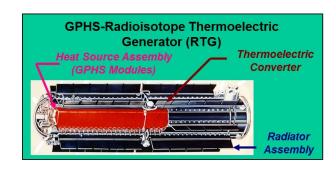


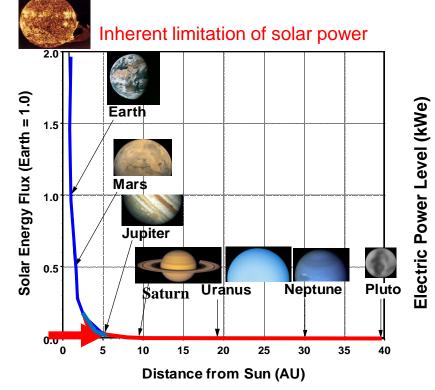
Solar power systems serve a *critical role* in the scientific exploration of the near-Earth solar system

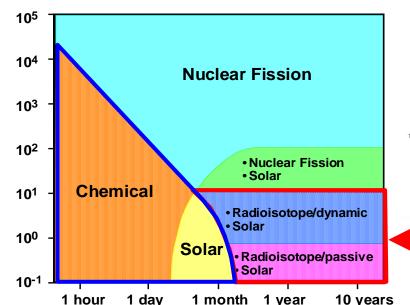
- Moderate power levels up to 100 kW
- Operations dependent on distance and orientation with respect to Sun

Radioisotope power systems (RPS) serve a *critical role* in the scientific exploration of the deep-space solar system

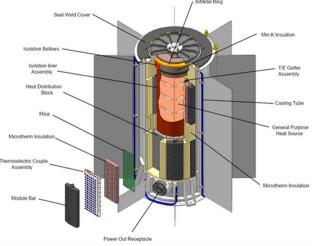
- Low to moderate power levels (~100 W 1 kW) for more than several months
- Operations independent of distance and orientation with respect to Sun







Best candidates for maximizing specific power



Multi-Mission RTG

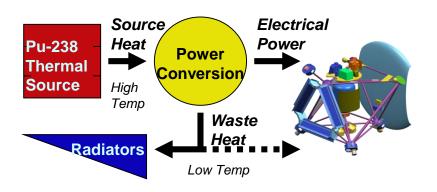


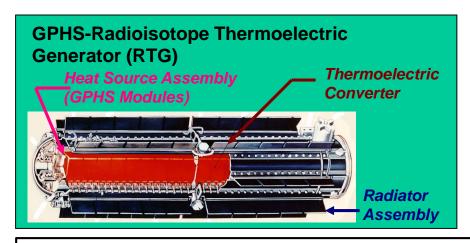
Duration of Use

Overview of a Radioisotope Power System



- High grade heat produced from natural alpha (α) particle decay of Plutonium (Pu-238)
 - > 87.7-year half-life
 - Heat source temperature ~ 1300 K
- Portion of heat energy converted to electricity via passive or dynamic thermal cycles (6%-35%)
 - Thermoelectric (existing & under development)
 - Stirling (under development)
 - Thermophotovoltaic, Brayton, etc. (future candidates)
- Waste heat rejected through radiators or a portion can be used for thermal control of spacecraft subsystems





Performance characteristics

- Specific power (W/kg) → Direct impact on science payload
- T/E efficiency → Reduces PuO₂ needs
- Power output → Supports diverse mission profiles

RTGs used successfully on 27 spacecrafts since 1961

- 11 Planetary (Pioneer 10 & 11, Voyager 1 & 2, Galileo, Ulysses, Cassini, New Horizons)
- 8 Earth Orbit (Transit, Nimbus, LES)
- 5 Lunar Surface (Apollo ALSEP), 3 Mars Surface (Viking, MSL/Curiosity)



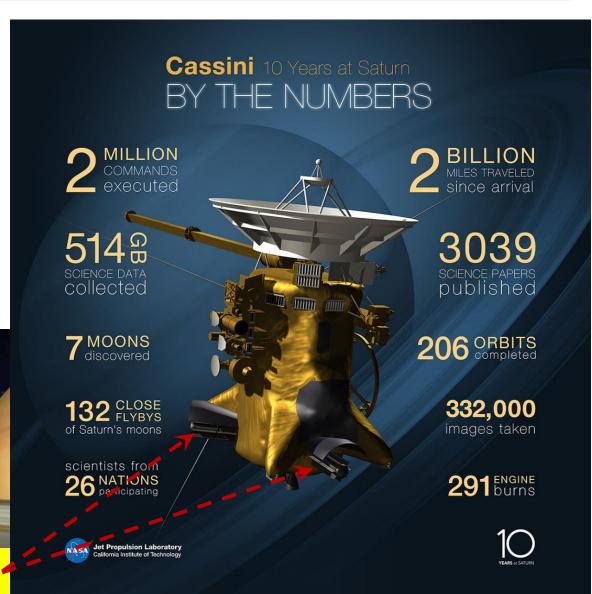
CASSINI Spacecraft to Saturn (October 15th, 1997 to September 15th, 2017)



- Vastly Updated Science on Saturn's Rings
- Incredible Science on Saturn's Moon Titan
 - Many Earth-Like Processes
 - Liquid Rivers & Lakes of Ethane & Methane Over Frozen Water
 - Salty Brine Ocean Under Icy Crust
 - Liquid Water and Ammonia Ocean ~100km Below Frozen Crust
- Likewise, Saturn's Moon Enceladus
 - Liquid Water Beneath its Icy, Snowy Crust
 - Geologic Activity Ice & Water Crystal Plumes at its South Pole









CASSINI Spacecraft to Saturn (1997-2017)



- Liquid Rivers & Lakes of Ethane & Methane Over Frozen Water
 - Ethane and Methane "Rains" in Atmosphere (Pressure Slightly Higher than ~1 atm)
 - ➤ Methane Atmosphere ~5% Methane Geologic Processes Replacing Methane
- ➤ Flew Cassini spacecraft into Saturn on 15 September 2017 (Final Dive)
 - ➤ Grand Finale 22 passes between ~2500-km gap between inner rings / Saturn's upper atmosphere
 - ➤ Velocity during inner ring passages 121,000-126,000 kmph
 - ➤ RTG Power Degradation shown below 32% over 20 years
 - ➤ Lost Cassini signal 1400 km above clouds

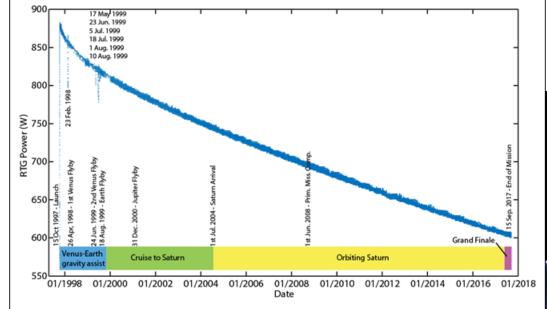
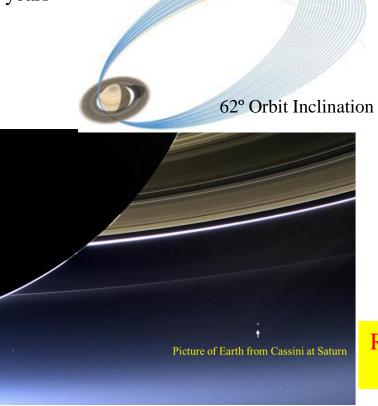
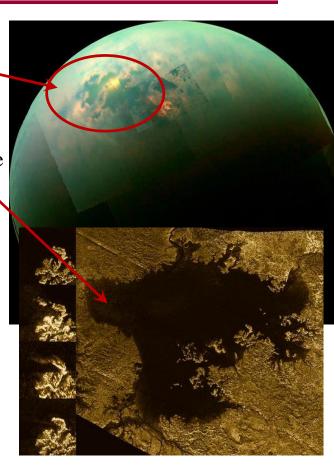


Fig. 1. Cassini recorded power output telemetry data over the entire mission between launch and EOM. The data is divided into four mission phases: The Venus-Earth gravity assist, the cruise to Saturn, orbiting Saturn





RTG Power Made this All Possible SiGe TE Materials

New Horizons to Pluto (2006-Continuing)



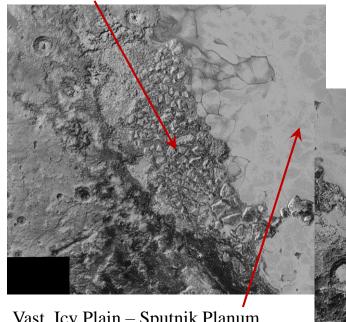


Heart of Pluto

With Love, Pluto

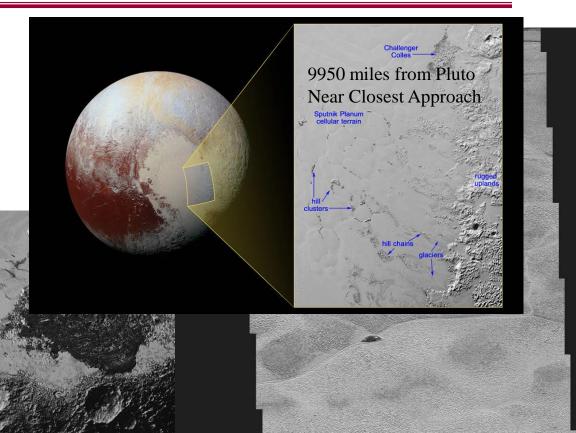
476,000 miles from Pluto

Large region of jumbled, broken terrain



Vast, Icy Plain – Sputnik Planum 50,000 miles from Pluto

300 mile wide image, smallest features 0.5 mile wide



10,000 miles from Pluto

Water ice hills are floating in a sea of frozen Nitrogen

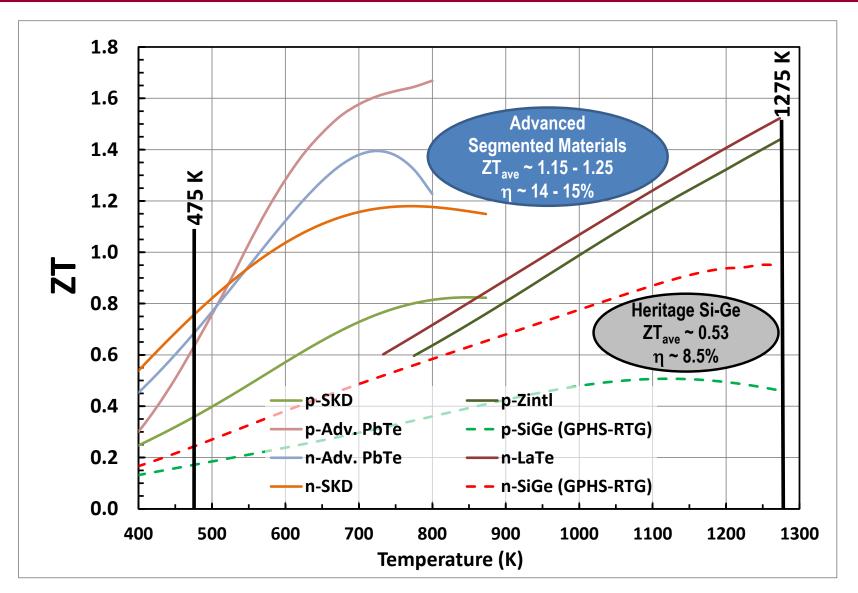
RTG Power Made this All Possible SiGe TE Materials



New Generation of "Mature" Advanced TE Materials



Large performance gains over heritage PbTe & Si-Ge alloys







Next Generation RTG TE Technologies - Phase Space

1273 K

473 K

HOT SIDE





Mechanically robust & chemically stable, low contact resistance hot side metallizations

Long term stability of hot shoe

Mechanically robust & thermally stable materials

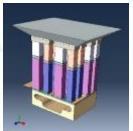
Mechanically compliant, high electrical/thermal conduction == == segment interfaces

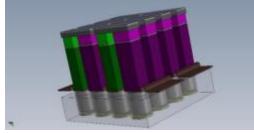
Practical, effective thermal insulation / sublimation suppression

Devices:

Design, Performance testing and modeling







Materials

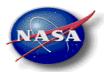
- Advanced complex materials
 - Zintls
 - 14-1-11
 - 1-2-2
 - 9-4-9
 - Chalcogenides
 - La_{3-x}Te₄ and other alkaline/rare earth compounds
 - Bi₂Te₃ and PbTebased advanced materials
 - Skutterudites
 - Half-Heusler
 - Silicides
 - Tetrahedrite
- Advanced materials and interfaces
 - Opacified aerogels
 - Composites

LaTe composites have starting particle sizes of 80 nm – 150 nm range, and after synthesis process it increases to submicron – 10's of microns in finished bulk



07/25/2017

Next-Generation RTGs for NASA – *Concepts*

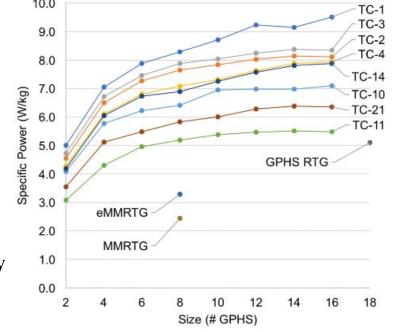


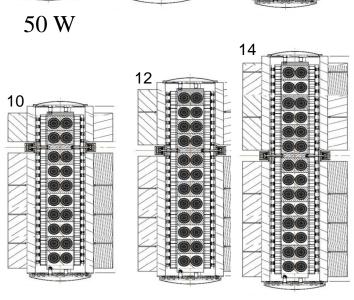
- Types of *new* RTG Concepts:
 - Vacuum Only
 - Segmented (TECs)
 - Cold Segmented
 - Segmented-Modular
 - Cold Segmented-Modular
 - Vacuum and Atmosphere
 - Hybrid Segmented-Modular
 - Cold Hybrid Segmented-Modular

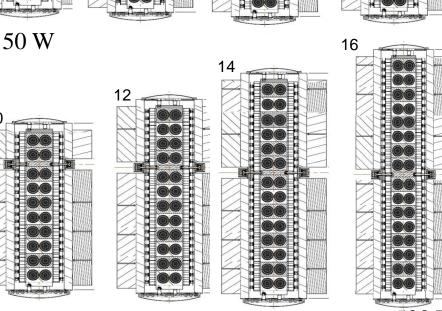
- Typically, NASA spacecraft power busses have been designed to operate in the range of 22 to 36 V.
- A two-GPHS unit was determined to be the smallest SMRTG variant capable of supporting the necessary number of TECs to meet the specified voltage requirement.
- This basic architecture would be electrically **integrated in parallel** for larger variants, such that the smallest (two-GPHS) variant determines the output voltage.

Variants: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, and 16 GPHS

Output Voltage ~34 Vdc





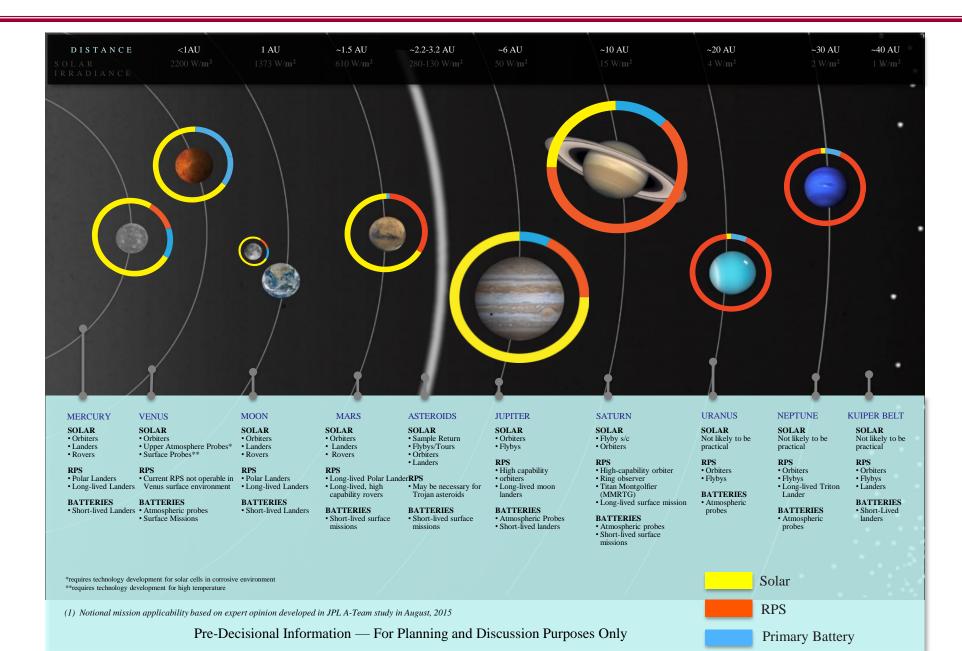


Pre-Decisional Information -- For Planning and Discussion Purposes Only



POWER TECHNOLOGIES APPLICABLE TO SOLAR SYSTEM EXPLORATION MISSION CONCEPTS AS OF 2015⁽¹⁾







SPACECRAFT SOLAR SYSTEMS DAWN & JUNO Missions



- ➤ Dawn Spacecraft
 - ➤ Asteroid Chasing Vesta and Ceres Asteroids
 - ➤ Hyper-efficient Ion-Propulsion (Xenon fueled)
 - ➤ 10 kW of Solar Power @ 1 A.U.; 1.3 kW @ 3 A.U.
 - ➤ InGaP/InGaAs/Ge Triple Junction PV Cells (35.4 m²)
 - ➤ Low Intensity, Low Temperature PV Effects Considered (Emerging)
- ➤ Juno Spacecraft
 - Launched to Jupiter in July 2011; Arrived July 2016
 - ➤ InGaP/InGaAs/Ge Triple Junction PV Cells
 - ≥ 256 sq. ft. (23.8 m²) per array, 3 arrays
 - ➤ Study Jupiter Atmosphere, Magnetic, & Gravity Fields
 - ► H₂O and NH₃ Measurements in Atmosphere

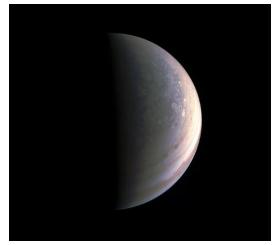




Latest From Juno @ Jupiter

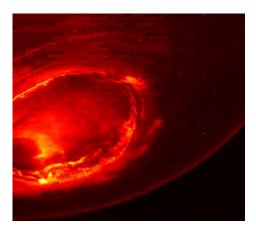


- □ North Pole of Jupiter 2500 miles Above Clouds
- ☐ Notice Absence of Banded Cloud Structure





- \square Deep in Jupiter's atmosphere, under great pressure, H_2 gas is squeezed into fluid known as metallic hydrogen
- \square At these enormous pressures, the H₂ acts like an electrically conducting metal
- ☐ Believed to be the source of the planet's intense magnetic field
- ☐ Powerful magnetic environment creates the brightest auroras in our solar system, as charged particles precipitate down into the planet's atmosphere.
- ☐ Juno will directly sample the charged particles and magnetic fields near Jupiter's poles for the first time



Southern Aurora 2500 miles above clouds

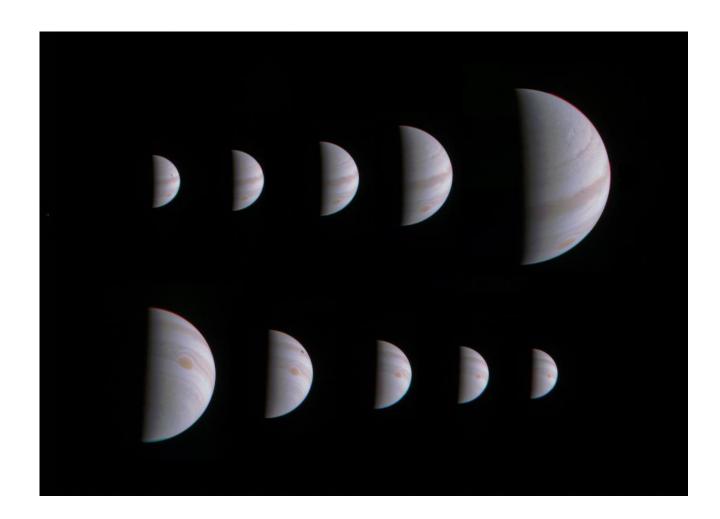


Latest From Juno @ Jupiter



- ☐ Jupiter pictures during the Juno orbit as it swings in and swings out in elliptical orbit
- ☐ This is its first arrival and departure in e-orbit
- ☐ More information at:

http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/news/press_kits/juno/science/





Imagine, Innovate, "Instigate" to Real-World Applications





39,000 m Up at Edge of Space Mach 1.25

Looks Like Space to Me!!





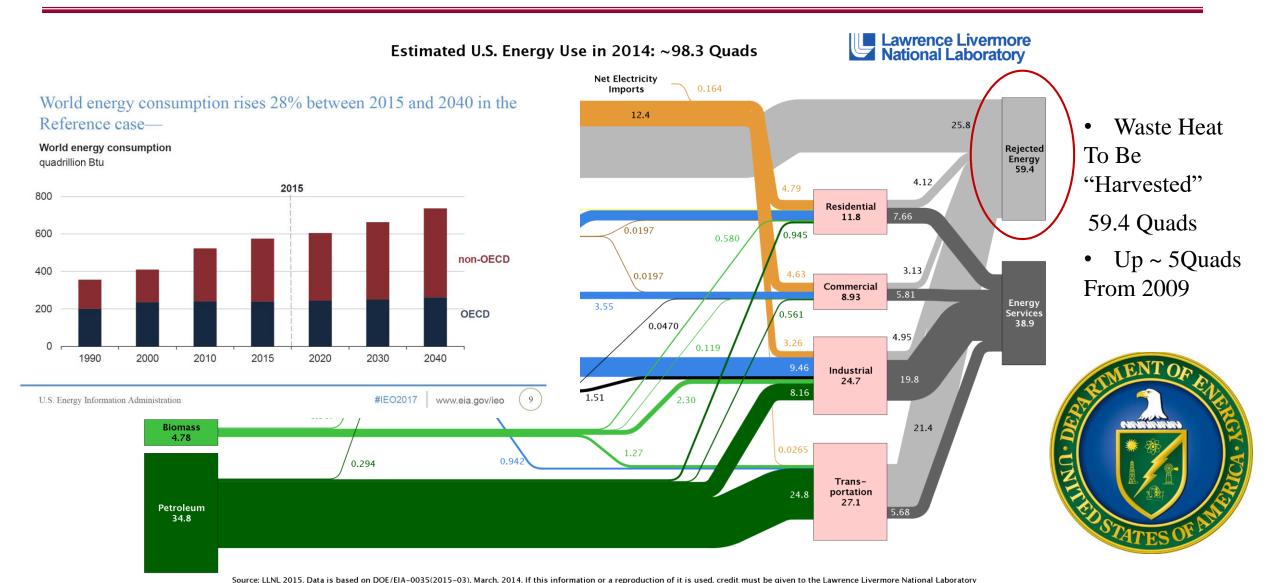
So Talking About Dual-Use Technologies



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Felix_Baumgartner http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FHtvDA0W34I

United States Energy Flow



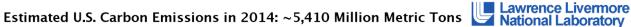




Environmental Effects Are Strongly Tied to Our Energy Use



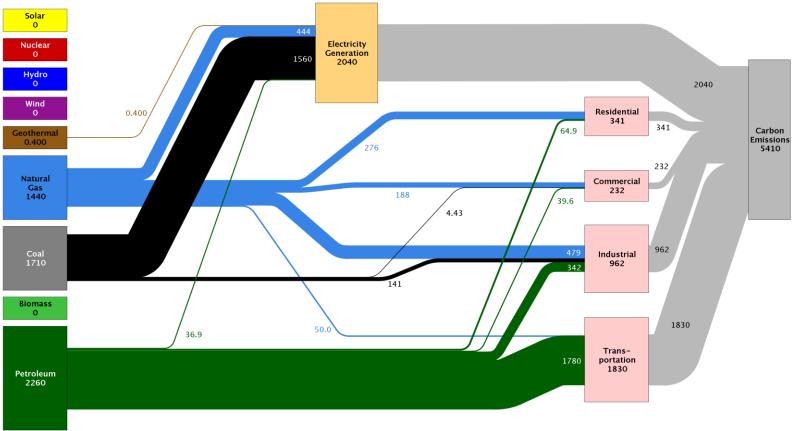
- ~1 kg of CO₂ produced per 1 kWhr (Coal Produced Power)
- ~0.5 kg of CO₂ is produced for 1 kWhr (Natural Gas Power)





Down ~400 Million Metric Tons From 2008 Mostly from Reduced Coal & Petroleum Use



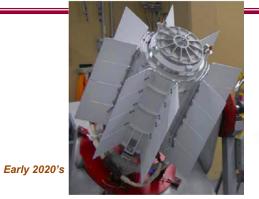




Source: LLNL 2015. Data is based on DOE/EIA-0035(2015-03), March, 2015. If this information or a reproduction of it is used, credit must be given to the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and the Department of Energy, under whose auspices the work was performed. Carbon emissions are attributed to their physical source, and are not allocated to end use for electricity consumption in the residential, commercial, industrial and transportation sectors. Petroleum consumption in the electric power sector includes the non-renewable portion of municipal solid waste. Combusition of biologically derived fuels is assumed to have zero net carbon emissions - the lifecycle emissions associated with producing biofuels are included in commercial and industrial emissions. Totals may not equal sum of components due to independent rounding errors. LLNL-MI-410527

Potential Near Term Space & Terrestrial Applications for **Advanced TE Power Systems**



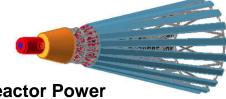


Advanced RTG Concepts

200-500 W

Up to 8.6 W/kg

> 11% efficiency Late 2020's

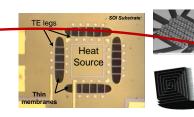


Fission Reactor Power System Concepts

0.5 to 10's of kW-class

Energy Harvesting

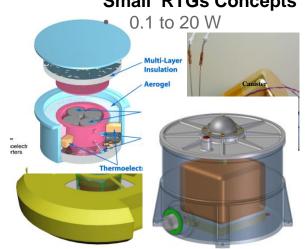
- Miniaturized devices
- Extreme environments



Proposed Enhanced MMRTG

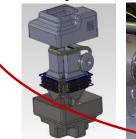
- ~ 160 W
- ~ 3.8 W/kg
- ~ 8% efficiency

Small RTGs Concepts



Advanced TE Technology

Auxiliary and waste heat recovery power systems











Power Plants

RTG space power system technology and advanced high temperature TE technology can be applied across a wide spectrum of terrestrial and space power applications

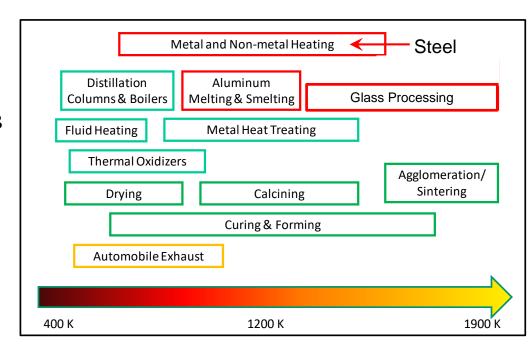


Pre-Decisional Information -- For Planning and Discussion Purposes Only

Industrial Process Energy Recovery Projects



- Project Goals are Often Tied to:
 - Energy Savings
 - Environmental Savings and Impacts
- Critical Peripheral Benefits Also Surface Beyond These Savings
 - ➤ Improved Product Quality (PACCAR Kenworth)
 - Improved Safety (Less Indoor Air Pollution)
 - ➤ Enhanced Product Throughput Due to Process Efficiency Increases
 - ➤ Enhanced Operational Efficiency (Less Water Use)
- Challenges:
 - Scaling Up to Industrial Processing Energy Flows
 - System Cost and Payback
 - ➤ Integrating into Industrial Processes Without Adversely Impacting Product Quality and Critical Metrics
 - ➤ High-Temperature Materials Durability and Operational Maintenance
 - ► La_{3-x} Te₄, Zintls, Skutterudite TE Materials are One Solution
 - In Some Cases, Similar Source Temperature and Energy Flow Variability as in Automobile Applications
 - "Occupied" Volume and Compactness
 - > JPL Working on Higher Power Density TE Solutions in Automotive and DARPA Programs





Terrestrial Waste Energy Recovery



> Thermoelectric Systems Considered a Prime Energy Recovery Technology Candidate /

Option in Many Terrest

> Terrestrial Energy Reco

- Energy Savings
- ➤ Environmental Savings and
- ➤ Maximizing Conversion El

TEG Hot-

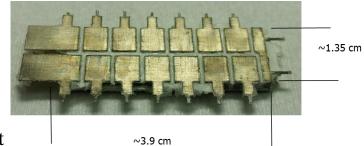
Surfaces

Side

- Maximum Power Output
- However, JPL is Currer Metric is Maximizing S
 - ➤ Knowing Its Relations
 - $T_{\text{exh}} = 823 \text{ K}; T_{\text{amb}} = 2$
- Fin Addition, Key Barrie

 Cost (As Discussed in 2013 1C1, Diesuen, Germany)

High Performance, High Power Flux Skutterudite TE Module Technology



High Performance,
Lightweight, High Heat
Flux Heat Exchanger

0:

signs Where the Critical Design

iciency Points is Key

mance Anymore as System-Level

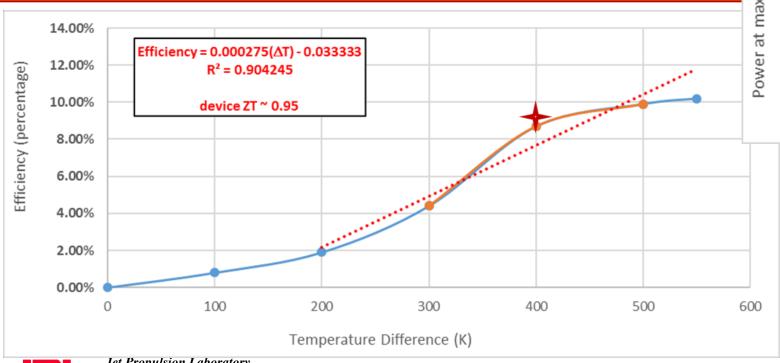
Cost Modeling and Integrating Cost Modeling With System-Level Performance Modeling is Critical

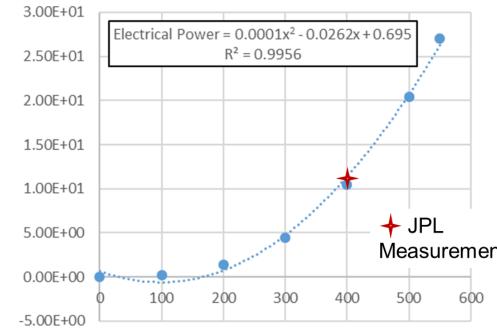


High Power Density TE Module Technology

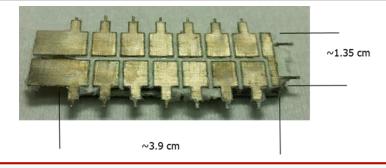


- All-skutterudite module technology demonstrated
- High efficiency TE module demonstrated
- High Power High Power Density TE module demonstrated
- Highest power density demonstrated to date
- Exactly what is needed for various terrestrial energy recovery applications





Temperature Difference (K)



JPL is ready to work with industry to commercialize this technology



Jet Propulsion Laboratory California Institute of Technology

TE Module Testing

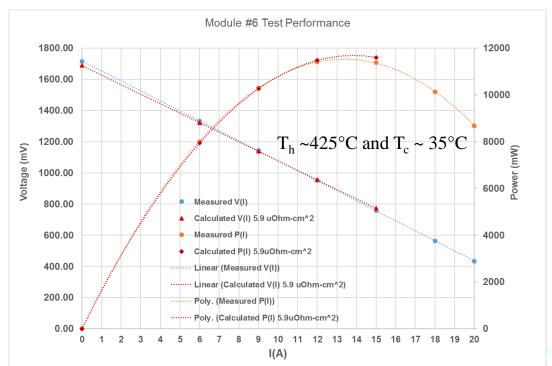


- Latest TE module test data looking better than ever
- Full I-V curve with comparison to model predicts
- Module measured resistance via I-V curve = 64.1 m Ω at temperature Good compared to expected 60 m Ω
- Power output was 20 W at $T_h \sim 525$ °C and $T_c \sim 20$ °C
 - Best Ever for JPL All-SKD TE Module
 - Power flux ~ 3.8 W/cm² (Module Footprint Area)
 - Power flux $\sim 9 \text{ W/cm}^2$ (TE Element Area)
- Thermoelectric efficiency ~10%
- Hot-side thermal resistances have now been analyzed with the aid of specific testing for hot-side ΔT 's
- Working to get T_c lower now and lower thermal contact resistances at hot- and cold-sides.
- Even exposed to some thermal cycling Internal resistances stayed constant





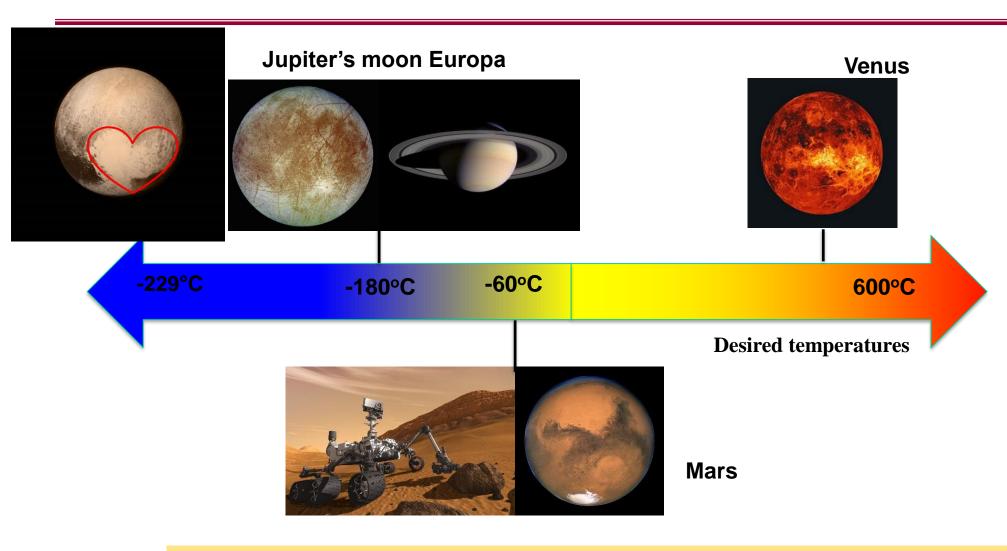
Module Mounted in Test System





Extreme Environments





Extreme environmental conditions for planetary missions (e.g., temperatures, gravity, thermal shock, radiation, and chemical attack)



High Temperature Photovoltaics for Venus Atmosphere



Objective: Development of a Low-intensity high-temperature (LIHT) solar cells that can function and operate effectively in the Venus atmosphere (~300°C and 100-300 W/m² solar irradiance conditions).

Simplified cross-section schematic of a GaInP/GaAs 2J solar cell designed for high temperature operation.

metal

GaAs

Anti-Reflection

Coating and minor

corrosion protection.

Al₂O₃/TiO₄ coating

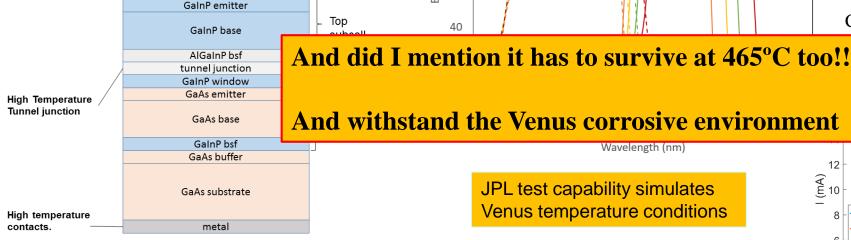
AllnP window



External Quantum Efficiency (EQE) measurement of a solar cell (Top junction and Bottom junction) between room temperature and 300°C

Current-voltage (IV) measurement of a solar

l between room temperature and 300°C



Solar cell modeling under the atmospheric conditions of Venus used to guide the ideal solar cell structure design – Current density matching of both layers

Grandidier et al., (2018) "Solar Cell Analysis Under Venus Atmosphere Conditions", 2018 45th Solar Photovoltaic

Specialist Conference, Waikoloa, HI. In Preparation

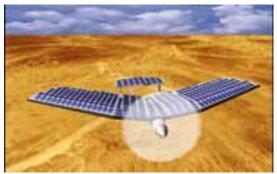
GaInP/GaAs 2J solar cells have initially shown promising performance under high temperature characterization



Potential Missions for Venus Explorations



- Extreme environments
 - Not habitable for human
 - Very hot environment (465°C)
 - Sulfuric acid environment
- Venus' high surface temperature overheat solar cells & electronics in spacecraft in a short time
- Potential Venus Missions Aerial and Surface Missions
 - Venus Design Reference mission
 - Venus Climate Observer (planet C) Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)
 - Venus Express European Space Agency (ESA)
- Want to determine what is there
 - Surface Heat Fluxes
 - Strong magnetic fields
 - Possible life in the extremely hot environment?







Examples of Venus aerial and surface mission concepts





Computer Simulated Global View of Venus

Terrestrial Solar Power Applications for High Temperature PV



- High Temperature Photovoltaics Can Translate into Power Tower Applications
- Also into Full Spectrum Hybrid Photovoltaics/Thermodynamic Cycle Systems

Solar Receiver Cavity

Aperture

¹ Full Spectrum Hybrid Photovoltaics and Thermal **Engine Utilizing High Concentration Solar Energy**

² Efficient Heat Transfer Methods in a Hybrid Solar Thermal

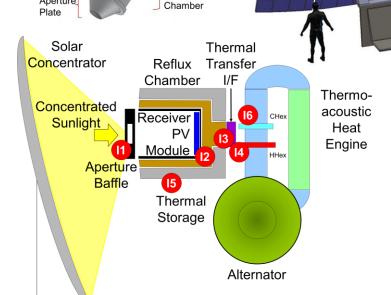
Power System for the FSPOT-X Project





Ivanpah Solar Power Facility

¹ Grandidier et al., PhotoVoltaic Specialist Conference (PVSC) 2016 ²Lee et al., ASME Power & Energy 2015, 9th International Conference on Energy Sustainability, PowerEnergy2015-49658



Condense Section

Reflux Boiler



Solucar PS10 Solar Thermal Power Plant

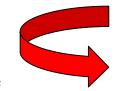
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solar power tower



Final Thoughts & Conclusions



- NASA Power System Development Provides Direct Technology Pathway to Terrestrial "Energy Recovery" Power Systems Applications
- ➤ Maybe a 10-20 Year Lag Getting Shorter Every Year
- Terrestrial Power Has Many Similar Requirements as Spacecraft Systems
 - Cost is Always An Issue
 - ➤ Space Environments More Extreme Than Terrestrial (Hot Venus & Cold Mars & Beyond)
 - ➤ Terrestrial Applications Have Severe Cost & Environmental Requirements
 - ➤ Spacecraft Power System Materials in Large Quantities in Earth-Based Applications Can Sometimes Cause Severe Issues on Earth
 - ➤ System Costs Generally Need to approach \$1-3/W to be Competitive TE WHR Power System Costs are Often Heat Exchanger Driven
 - > JPL's latest advancements in high-power-density TE module technology & high performance heat exchangers to address needs
- Goal is to Transition Terrestrial Technology Advances Back into NASA Missions & Systems
- > JPL is Happy to Collaborate with Industry & Academia in Developing These Technologies



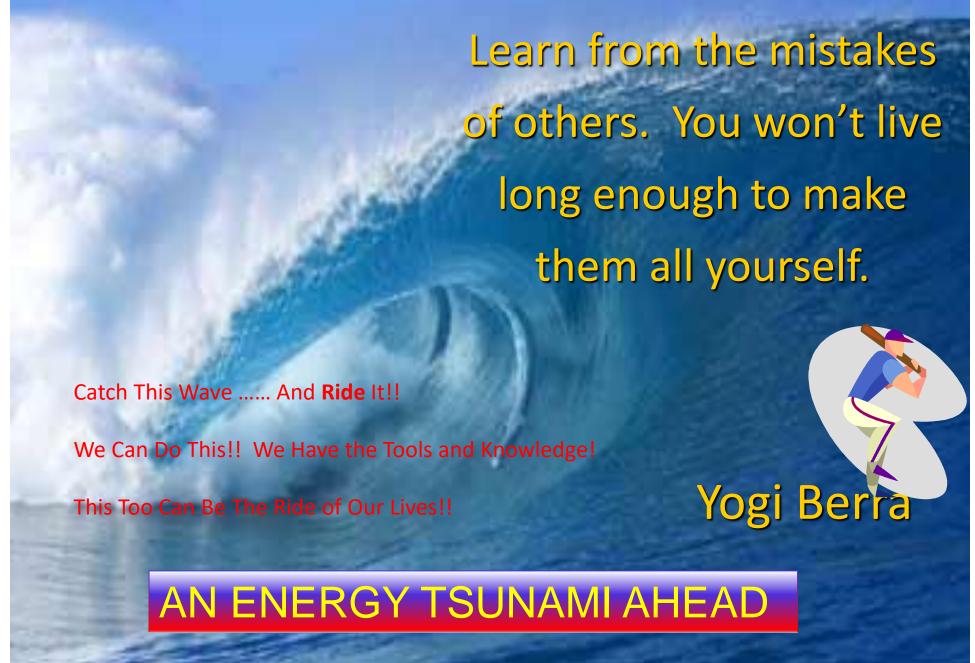
Terrestrial Power Advances



NASA Mission Requirements

Expanding Our Energy & Biosensor Toolbox





ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



This work was carried out at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, under a contract to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.



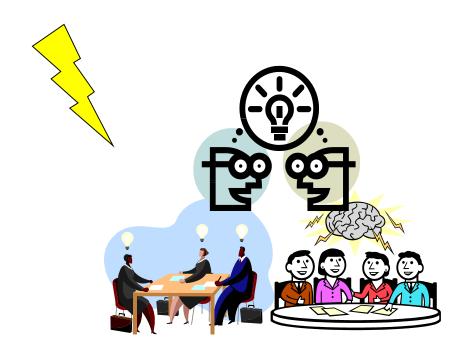
Thank you for your interest and attention



Some People See the World as It Is and Ask Why..... I Dream What Has Never Been and Ask Why Not?

Robert F. Kennedy, 1968

Questions & Discussion







BACKUP SLIDES

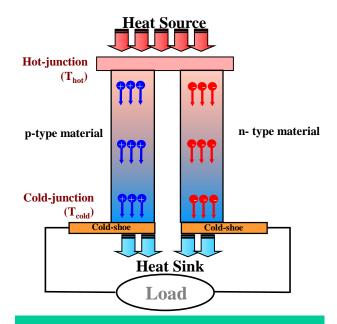
* Methane is the world's most abundant hydrocarbon. It's the major component of natural gas and shale gas and, when burned, is an effective fuel. But it's also a major contributor to climate change, with 24 times greater potency as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide.



Thermoelectric Power Generation



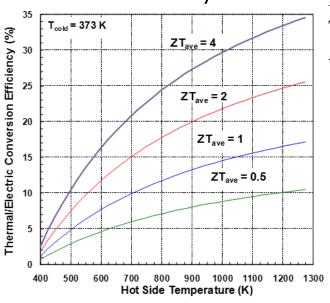
Thermoelectric Couple



Thermoelectric effects are defined by a coupling between the electrical and thermal currents induced by an electric field and a temperature gradient

Dimensionless Thermoelectric Figure of Merit, ZT

$$ZT = \frac{\sigma S^2 T}{\lambda} = \frac{S^2 T}{\rho \lambda}$$



Common TE Materials:

 $\mathrm{Bi_2Te_3}$ 300 K - 525 K PbTe-based 400 K - 775 K SiGe-based 525 K - 1273 K Skutterudites 475 K - 875 K $\mathrm{La_{3-x}Te_4/Zintls}$ 625 K - 1273 K

Seebeck coefficient S Electrical conductivity σ Electrical resistivity ρ Thermal conductivity λ Absolute temperature T

Conversion Efficiency

Power generation

(across 1275 to 300 K) State-Of-Practice materials: $ZT_{average} \sim 0.5$

State-Of-the-Art materials: $ZT_{average} \sim 1.1$

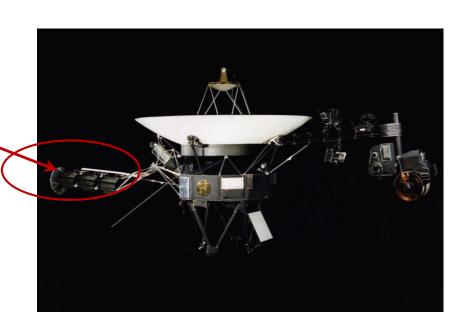
Best SOA materials: $ZT_{peak} \sim 1.5 \text{ to } 2.0$



Voyager – Interstellar Mission (1977)



- Launched 37 Years Ago
- ➤ Traveled Farther than Anyone, or Anything, in History 11 billion miles from Earth Now
 - First Spacecraft to Travel Beyond Our "Solar Wind"
- First Flyby Studies of Jupiter, Saturn, Saturn's rings, and the Larger Moons of the Two Planets, Neptune, Uranus
 - ➤ Discovered 3 of Jupiter's Moons Adrastea, Metis, and Thebe
 - Detailed Investigation of Saturn's Rings
- ➤ Now in Interstellar Space Outside our Solar System
- ➤ RTG Power System (Based on Si-Ge Thermoelectric Materials)
 - Still Operating and Powering Spacecraft





MARS SCIENCE LABORATORY (2012)

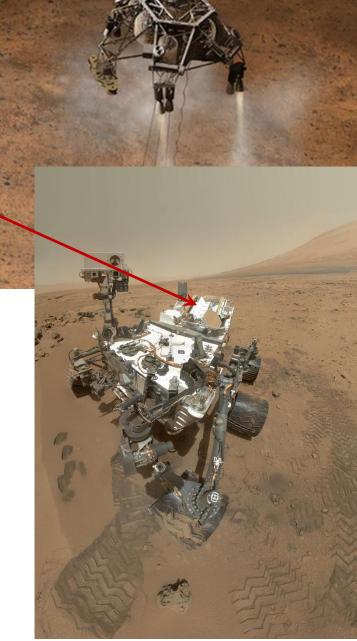


- ➤ Landed the Curiosity Rover on Mars in 2012 Sky Crane
- ➤ About the Size of a Small Car (~2000 lbs)
- Radioisotope-Driven Thermoelectric Generator (RTG) Used to Power Curiosity
- > Spent the Last 2 Years Investigating the Geology on Mars
- ➤ 1st Year on Mars Discovered Strong Evidence of Prior Water on Mars
 - > 3.5 Billion Years Ago We Think Mars Had Rivers, Lakes, & "Oceans"
 - ➤ Theory Lost Its Magnetic Field & Atmosphere was Ultimately Destroyed
- > Spent Last Year "Driving" from Landing Site to Mt. Sharp
 - > 3-mile High Martian Mountain
 - Currently in the Foothills of Mt. Sharp
- Geology on Mars Similar to Earth

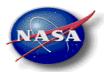


RTG Power With Heritage TE Materials Made this All Possible TAGS, PbSnTe, PbTe TE Materials – Segmented Elements





U.S. National Waste Energy Recovery



> Transportation Sector

- **▶** 12.5 Quads
- ➤ Light-Duty Passenger Vehicles + Light-Duty Vans/Trucks (SUVs)¹
- ➤ Medium & Heavy-Duty Vehicles¹



- > 5-10 Quads of Waste Energy Flows in Industrial Processes
 - ➤ Aluminum, Glass
 - > Paper
 - ➤ Petroleum
 - > Chemical
- ➤ 1.8 Quads Recoverable, Potentially 1.56 GW²
- ➤ Wide Range of Temperatures & Heat Sources



Waste Energy All Around Us





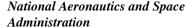


¹ Transportation Energy Data Book, 2010, Edition 29, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Vehicles Technology Program. ORNL-6985, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

http://cta.ornl.gov/data/index.shtml.

² U.S. Energy Information Agency, 2007 Annual Energy Outlook



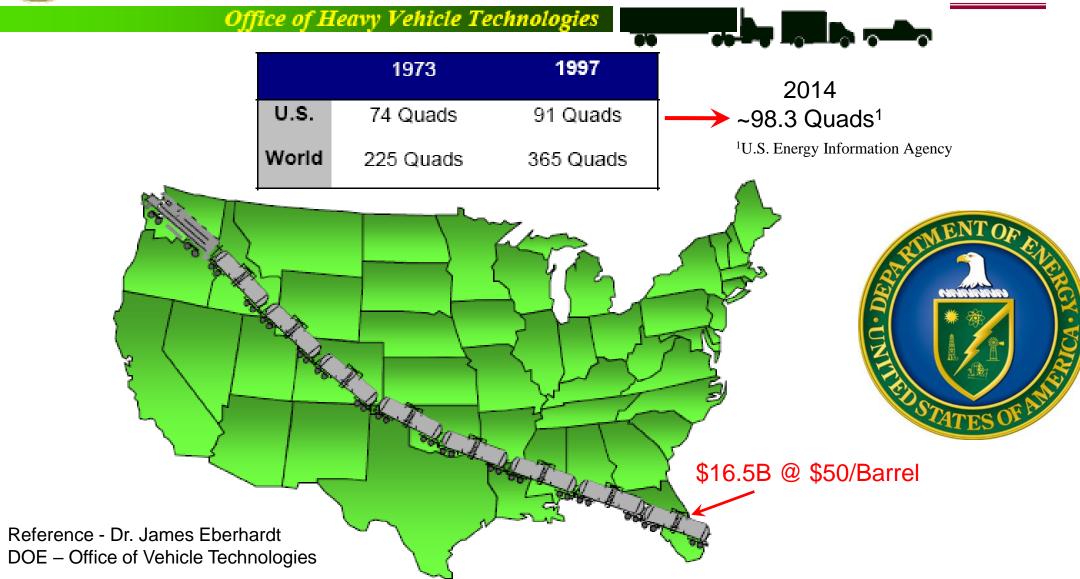






The Magnitude of Our Energy Problem



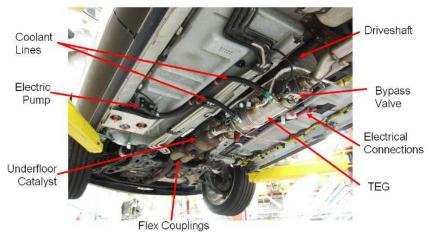




Thermoelectrics in a Ford Lincoln MKT & BMW Series 6 (May 2012)



- Demonstrated 450 W Power Output on a BMW Drive Cycle at 130 kph
- Demonstrated 300 W Power Output on a Ford Lincoln MKT at 65 mph



- BMW ultimately interested in average power over NEDC
- Ford and U.S. Auto Companies ultimately interested in US06 & SC03



http://www1.eere.energy.gov/vehiclesandfuels/pdfs/merit re view_2012/adv_combustion/ace080_lagrandeur_2012_o.pdf





https://www1.eere.energy.gov/vehiclesandfuels/



Drive cycle contained in UN/ECE Regulation 101

Low-Power Energy Harvesting Systems for Outer Planets Mission Concepts



Outer Planets exploration activities

- Through ice, water, cryogenic liquids, hot gases, high g loads, moderate to high radiation
- Such as for Europa landers, Titan explorers,
 Comet sample return vehicles...

Need for miniaturized robust power sources

- To enable/prolong planetary exploration, to permit novel/more science measurements
- To enable development of novel miniaturized autonomous probes such as drop-off penetrators, weather microstations, communication relay devices, etc...

